

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Amendments

Claim 11 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of cancelled claim 11. Claim 12 has been amended to remain consistent with amended independent claim 1.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-14 were identified by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

As mentioned above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 11, which was identified by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter as discussed above, it is submitted that amended independent claim 1 and claims 2-4, 6-10 and 12-16 that depend therefrom are allowable.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1, 3, and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the admitted prior art (see pages 1-4, 8 and 9 of the specification) and Kueneman (U.S. 4,081,600) as evidenced by “Material Expansion Coefficients.” Further, claims 2, 4, 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of the admitted prior art, Kueneman, Ikeguchi (JP 57011026), Shirasawa (U.S. 4,614,559), Del (U.S. 4,180,608) and Hashimoto (U.S. 6,492,030).

In view of the above-mentioned indication of allowable subject matter now recited in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are no longer applicable. As a result, withdrawal of these 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshiaki TAKENAKA et al.

By /Andrew L. Dunlap/
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Andrew L. Dunlap
Registration No. 60,554
Attorney for Applicants

ALD/lkd
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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